

## F. &amp; A. M.

**M. A. R. LODGE, No. 244.**—Stated communion upon third Monday night of each month at Hall in Masonic Temple.  
E. E. McCroskey, Sec.

**DEARL CHAPTER, No. 44, R. A. M.**—Stated convocation upon third Monday night of each month at Hall in Masonic Temple.  
A. Gredid, Recorder. W. A. Galbraith, H. P.

**LEUR DE LION COMMANDERY, No. 9.**—Stated convocation upon second Monday night of each month; meetings for drill upon Friday night of each week, at Hall in Masonic Temple.  
S. J. Todd, Rec.

## L. O. O. F.

**PAST TENNESSEE LODGE, No. 34.**—Meets Tuesday nights at Odd Fellows' Hall, west of Market Square. J. T. Ambrose, N. G.; John Benzel, V. G.; E. W. Adkins, R. S.; and M. J. Lee, Peter Ritter, Treasurer.

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There is not a Republican in the district that is in any way a leading and reputable man opposing me, except those who have been turned out of office or disappointed in getting office.—L. C. Houk, in his Opera-house speech.

The death of Garfield, considered from a political point of view, would be the best thing that could happen for the Republican party. . . . The people will sustain Conkling, while Garfield's name will go down to dishonor and disgrace.—L. C. Houk.

It is possibly true, fellow-citizens, that I was in the calaboose, but I tell you, before God, I have no recollection of it. I made it public, and for ten hours I did not know anything under the sun, and it may be that some of the rascals who poisoned me put me in the calaboose while I was unconscious. I would have made this poisoning business public long since, but I had detectives after the murderers who attempted to take my life, and I feared that if I made it public, the assassins would escape. They slipped into my room and put poison in my water-glass, and upon taking it I became unconscious, and in that condition I was put in the calaboose, if put there at all.—L. C. Houk, in his Opera-house speech, August 24th.

## An "Expedited" Pension.

New York Herald.

The Hon. Leonidas Caesar Houk, member of Congress from the second district of Tennessee, and member also of the Hubbell blackmailing Congressional committee, has mistaken his vocation. As a Congressman he has not been conspicuously a success except while drawing his pay, but a story is largely circulated in his district indicating that he would make an admirable claim agent if his charges were kept within reasonable limits. The story is that Mr. Houk, who once was in the army, made an application two years ago for a pension, and that in seven weeks he received his first payment, with arrears, amounting to more than three thousand dollars. That he already was in receipt of a good income, that he did not think to apply for a pension until the great "equalizing" swindle was perpetrated, that his disabilities were not serious enough to prevent him, two years before, declaring in an application for life insurance that he was in sound bodily health, may be points worthy of consideration by moralists; but the point of this article is to show that if Mr. Houk is not re-elected to Congress he still can make a living, for a man who can get arrears of pension within seven weeks of date of application is just the man that many really needy pensioners are anxious to employ. Some people who think they know a great deal may say that Mr. Houk got his pension arrears so quickly, while one-armed and no-armed veterans were waiting, as they still are, because he was a member of the committee on war claims; but how can this be, when only two of the thirteen members of that committee held him in high enough regard to be willing to state, in writing, their quasi favorable opinion of his conduct when unpleasant charges were recently made against him?

## The Comet as a Factor.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The presence of the comet which now gives such interest to the early morning heavens has afforded the astronomers a fine opportunity to air pet theories and swap numerous ethereal conjectures. At the same time a new chance has been furnished for sensational gossip about possible planetary disasters, and the probability of an early realization of policies of life insurance. Between the two, a good deal of newspaper space has been redeemed from politics and other frivolities and devoted to issues that trivialize things of ordinary concern to moonshine and vapor. If we have gained nothing more, we have at least been shown anew how very little we know about certain matters, and by what a slender thread, after all, hangs the information we really possess on topics of which we are accustomed to talk so glibly.

In sober truth, if science deals frankly with us, and what we really know is to be preferred to idle supposition, the comets are advantageous rather than dangerous, since their absorption by the sun replenishes the energy of that useful luminary, and protects it from that extinction which must finally overtake it through the cooling process that gradually lessens its heat and multiplies the obscuring spots upon its surface. The more comets it can draw to itself to augment its volume and warmth, the better both for the sun and for the earth. Not that the sun is likely to "grow old like a garment" and cease its important functions in any sudden way or at any early date. Without anything to help it resist the encroachments of the destroying power, the Hebrew prophecy of the time when it shall hang in the heavens "red as blood," and heavy with a message of extermination for the human race, would still have its fulfillment postponed to a period remote enough to insure plenty of time for repentance. It is calculated that the sun loses one degree of heat in every 2,000 years, and its present heat equals 8,000,000 degrees, so it will require 160,000,000 years at least to blot it out. A great deal of grain can be used in that time, and a great many sins find forgiveness, not to speak of the abundant fun that may be had. We can afford, therefore, and this is the moral of these reflections—to enjoy the comet as a thing of beauty, trailing through the upper regions for a brief and harmless season, without bothering ourselves about imaginary talaclums. The sun will not shrivel to darkness nor the earth pass away until long after we have ceased to have any use for either of them; and the part of philosophy, as well as common sense, is to vex not our souls with horrid visions, but make the best of what has been provided for us, certain that God having created the world He can be trusted to take care of it.

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CHAS. N. READE, Secy. Knoxville, Tenn.

**Organized**  
SEPT. 30.

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